

CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) A selectively extensible jack assembly comprising:
an upper jack tube adapted to be connected to a structure;
a lower jack tube telescopically engaging said upper jack tube, said lower jack tube including a ground engaging member;
a jack screw axially disposed within said upper and said lower jack tube;
means drivably connected to said jack screw for selectively rotating said jack screw in a first and a second direction;
a nut retainer member seated within an upper end of said lower jack tube; and
a screw nut threadably engaging said jack screw, said screw nut positionally captured within said nut retainer member wherein rotation of said jack screw in said first direction will drive said screw nut and said retainer member downwardly telescopically extending said jack assembly and rotation of said jack screw in said second direction will move said screw nut and said retainer member upwardly telescopically contracting said jack assembly.
2. (Original) The jack assembly as defined in claim 1 wherein said screw nut has a diameter substantially less than the diameter of said lower jack tube.
3. (Previously Amended) The jack assembly as defined in claim 2 wherein said nut retainer member has a circumferential configuration corresponding to a cross-sectional configuration of said lower jack tube.
4. (Previously Amended) The jack assembly as defined in claim 3 wherein said nut retainer member includes a lateral slot open to one edge of said nut retainer member, said slot formed by upper and lower spaced apart shoulders and said walls, said screw nut positionally captured within said slot.
5. (Previously Amended) The jack assembly as defined in claim 4 wherein said screw nut has a plurality of flat edges and said slot of said nut retainer member has a corresponding

plurality of flat surfaces formed in said side walls of said slot, said flat surfaces engaging said flat edges to prevent rotation of said screw nut within said retainer member.

6. (Previously Amended) The jack assembly as defined in claim 3 wherein said nut retainer member includes at least one peripheral flange, said at least one peripheral flange engaging the top of said lower jack tube upon seating of said retainer member within said lower jack tube.

7. (Previously Amended) The jack assembly as defined in claim 6 and further comprising at least one shoulder formed in said retainer member, said jack tube engaging said at least one shoulder to prevent withdrawal of said retainer member from said lower jack tube.

8. (Previously Amended) A selectively extensible jack assembly comprising:
an upper jack tube adapted to be connected to a structure;
a lower jack tube telescopically received within said upper jack tube, said lower jack tube including a ground engaging member;
a jack screw extending axially through said upper and said lower jack tube;
drive means connected to said jack screw for selectively rotating said jack screw in a first direction and a second direction; and
a screw nut threadably engaging said jack screw, said screw nut having a diameter substantially smaller than a diameter of said lower jack tube, said screw nut positionally captured within a nut retainer member, said nut retainer member nestingly received within an upper end of said lower jack tube and disposed within said upper jack tube wherein rotation of said jack screw in said first direction will drive said screw nut and said retainer member downwardly to telescopically extend said jack assembly and rotation of said jack screw in said second direction will move said screw nut and said retainer member upwardly along said jack screw to telescopically contract said jack assembly.

9. (Previously Amended) The jack assembly as defined in claim 8 wherein said nut retainer member has a circumferential configuration corresponding to a cross-sectional configuration of said lower jack tube.

10. (Previously Amended) The jack assembly as defined in claim 9 wherein said nut retainer member includes a lateral slot open to one edge of said nut retainer member, said slot formed by upper and lower spaced apart shoulders and side walls, said screw nut positionally captured within said slot.

11. (Previously Amended) The jack assembly as defined in claim 10 wherein said screw nut has plurality of flat edges and said slot of said nut retainer member has a corresponding plurality of flat surfaces formed in said side walls of said slot, said flat surfaces engaging said flat edges to prevent rotation of said screw nut within said retainer member.

12. (Previously Amended) The jack assembly as defined in claim 11 wherein said nut retainer member includes at least one peripheral flange, said at least one peripheral flange engaging the top of said lower jack tube upon seating of said retainer member within said lower jack tube.

13. (Previously Amended) The jack assembly as defined in claim 12 and further comprising at least one shoulder formed in said retainer member, said jack tube engaging said at least one shoulder to prevent withdrawal of said retainer member from said lower jack tube.

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14. (Currently Amended) A selectively extensible jack assembly comprising:
an upper jack tube adapted to be connected to a structure;
a lower jack tube telescopically moveable relative to said upper jack tube, said lower jack tube including a ground engaging member;
a jack screw extending axially through said upper and lower jack tube;
drive means connected to said jack screw for selectively rotating said jack screw in a first direction and a second direction;
a nut retainer member seated within ~~one of~~ said ~~upper or~~ lower jack tubes; and

a screw nut threadably engaging said jack screw, said screw nut positionally captured within said nut retainer member wherein rotation of said jack screw in said first direction permits said upper tube to telescopically extend relative to said lower jack tube and rotation of said jack screw in said second direction permits said upper jack tube to telescopically retract relative to said lower jack tube.

15. (Currently Amended) The jack assembly of claim 14, wherein said screw nut has a diameter substantially smaller than the diameter of said ~~upper or lower~~ jack tube.

16. (Previously Added) The jack assembly of claim 15, wherein said nut retainer member is nestedly received within an upper end of said lower jack tube.

17. (Previously Added) The jack assembly of claim 16, wherein said nut retainer member includes a lateral slot open to one edge of said nut retainer member, said slot formed by upper and lower spaced apart shoulders and side walls, said screw nut positionally captured within said slot.